

In reading the MPAA's comments on their DTV copy prevention proposal, (on page 7), they go into great detail about how easy it is to record and distribute digital TV signals, and how this justifies a control regime imposed by the FCC.

Their arguments apply equally well to analog TV signals. These can also be recorded merely by selecting "Record" while watching TV on a computer using a TV tuner card. And the vast majority of television currently broadcast is in analog forms. Yet somehow this massive "leakage" of analog TV signals does not appear to justify a massive copy-prevention regime -- or at least we are not hearing from the movie studios and television producers that they will stop broadcasting movies and TV shows unless the FCC will act to prevent consumers from digitally recording analog TV shows any way they want to.

Analog TV shows, of course, are recorded by computers in digital form, and can be reproduced millions of times without any degradation of quality, spread on the Internet, etc. And it would be just as easy to impose a "broadcast flag" on computers capable of recording analog TV, as it would be to impose that regime on computers capable of recording digital TV.

But somehow the industry is not calling for that. Why not? Perhaps because it would be too obvious a power grab. Their grab for control of consumer equipment that can process digital TV is equally absurd, and should be rejected by the FCC.

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(filed as my personal opinion; EFF has filed its own comments)